

June , 2001

Ms. Whitney Rick
Chief, Research and Promotion Staff
Cotton Program, Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA, Stop 0224
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20250-0244



Dear Ms. Rick

As a Certified Producer Organization, we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the Cotton Research and Promotion Program; Federal Register Notice Volume 66, No. 58, CN-01-002.

California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors is a grower owned and grower funded cottonseed research and cottonseed marketing organization. We represent the six cotton-growing counties of the San Joaquin Valley of California with a membership of over 1,500 cotton farmers. The purpose of our company is to develop new cotton varieties that will increase yields, decrease input costs, and increase price premiums, as well as other considerations demanded by the industry.

CPCSD is a strong supporter of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. California cotton growers have directly benefited from research conducted by Cotton Incorporated specifically relating to new variety development. California "Acala" cottons are world renowned for their fiber spinning qualities. The fiber testing has been done utilizing Cotton Incorporated's modern textile technologies. By using state-of-the-art facilities, breeders such as CPCSD have been able to focus breeding efforts within quality parameters increasing efficiencies demanded by the textile industry. These efficiencies have then been used in the promotional activities of Cotton Incorporated and have had a significant impact on increasing cotton's market share in the textile industry.

The Cotton Board has done an outstanding job of administering the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. The success of cotton is attributable to the effectiveness of the program. Our membership does not support AMS conducting a referendum to determine the continuation of the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. It is our opinion that a mandatory referendum is not needed and would only use funds desperately needed for research and promotion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue

Respectfully

Bill Van Skike
President/CEO



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COTTON
PLANTING SERVICE